· AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 1.00 EURO · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · SWEDEN KR10 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 28 JULY 23, 2007

INSIDE

Asian Americans convicted in Massachusetts frame-up trial

—PAGE 2

U.S. Senate kills bill on immigration

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES, June 30—By a vote of 46–53, the U.S. Senate two days ago blocked the "Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Reform Act of 2007," which had been promoted by U.S. president George Bush and a coalition of Democratic and Republican senators. The measure fell 14 votes short of the 60 needed to end debate and move toward approving the bill.

Legalize all immigrants now!
—editorial pg. 3

"Congress's failure to act . . . is a disappointment," Bush said following the vote. "The status quo is unacceptable when it comes to our immigration laws. A lot of us worked hard to see if we couldn't find a common ground. It didn't work."

The bill's failure reflects sharp divisions within the ruling class on immigration reform. The vote cut across party lines, with 33 Democrats, 12 Republicans, and one independent voting to advance the bill, and 15 Democrats, 37 Republicans, and one independent voting against.

Among those backing the bill were employer organizations concerned with

Continued on page 3

U.S. offensive in Iraq to escalate

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

June 30—In a speech to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, two days ago, U.S. president George Bush described in some detail the current offensive by U.S. troops in Iraq, which is expected to escalate. He defended the shift in the U.S. military's tactics, dubbed "the surge," which he outlined January 10.

Bush also made it clear "Iraq is just a theater" in a multi-front "war on terrorism" that Washington is leading.

The day before Bush's speech, Frederick Kagan, a military analyst with the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a conservative think tank, testified on the war in Iraq before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Working with Jack Keane, a retired U.S. Army general, Kagan had authored an AEI study on which Bush's new plan was largely based.

In his June 27 testimony, Kagan outlined the operational plan of the occupation forces in Iraq. "It is now beyond question that the Bush Administration pursued a flawed approach to the war in Iraq from 2003 to 2007," he said. That included keeping the number of U.S. troops in Iraq as small as possible, pushing Iraqi government forces into the lead prematurely, and pressing Baghdad to take political steps to stabilize the country before violence could be brought

Continued on page 2

Los Angeles: 3,000 demand 'Legalization now!'

Militant/Naomi Craine

LOS ANGELES, June 24—About 3,000 people marched down Hollywood Boulevard here today to oppose immigration raids and call for legalizing undocumented immigrants. The march ended in a rally in front of the Chinese Mann Theater.

The action was called by the April 7 Coalition for Full Rights of Undocumented Workers, which organized a march of 15,000 people in Los Angeles last April. The coalition includes the Latino Movement USA, Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, and ANSWER.

—NAOMI CRAINE

MARCH FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Legalization now! Stop ICE raids and deportations!

LOS ANGELES Saturday, August 4, 10 a.m.

Assemble downtown L.A. at Olympic Blvd. and Broadway. March to City Hall.

www.march25coalition.org; or call Carlos Montes (213) 712-0370, Gloria Saucedo (818) 919-4718

'We met people involved in the same struggle'

Thousands, many from U.S. South, share ideas, experiences at Social Forum in Atlanta

Militant/Jacquie Henderson

About 150 people attended a workshop, June 30, on "Domestic, Farm, and Low-Wage Workers," during the five-day U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta.

BY PAUL MAILHOT AND OLYMPIA NEWTON

ATLANTA, July 1—The U.S. Social Forum concluded here today under the theme, "Another world is possible—another U.S. is necessary!" The organizers announced that 6,500 had registered at the start of the five-day political gathering, and hundreds more checked in over the following days.

They hailed from all parts of the United States, especially the South. Many came in contingents from social service organizations. The largest delegations

Continued on page 4

Hundreds at U.S. Social Forum buy 'Militant' and 'New International'

BY SETH DELLINGER

ATLANTA, July 1— "These are the books I need, and they're needed all over the world," said a young woman from Kenya when she walked up to one of the many tables featuring the *Militant*, *New International* magazine, and Pathfinder

Continued on page 4

U.S. Supreme Court deals blow to school desegregation programs

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, June 28—The Supreme Court handed down a 5-4 ruling today striking a blow at school desegregation. The court threw out provisions in public school desegregation plans in Louisville, Kentucky, and Seattle that consider race in assigning students to schools.

In both cities, some white parents had sued to have the desegregation plans overturned.

Leaders of civil rights groups and desegregation advocates condemned the decision as a blow to the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education*. The *Brown* decision said that racially separate schools are inherently unequal.

The contending opinions and commentary of the Justices was marked by sharp exchanges. "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race," said Chief Justice John Roberts in the majority opinion. Roberts said the majority opinion was more faithful to the *Brown* decision.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice John Paul Stevens called Roberts' invocation of *Brown* "a cruel irony" that "rewrites the history of one of this court's most important decisions."

"It is not often in law that so few have

Continued on page 5

UAW approves big concessions to Delphi Corp.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

In a major blow to auto workers, union members at Delphi Corp., General Motor's largest auto supplier, ratified a four-year contract June 29 that included major cuts in wages, extensive plant closings, and the elimination of the union's "jobs bank."

According to a United Auto Workers (UAW) press release, the contract passed by a margin of 68 percent. A total of 7,613 workers from 18 Delphi plants voted in favor and 3,612 voted against.

Union officials said the givebacks were necessary because Delphi had threatened

Continued on page 2

Iraq: U.S. offensive to escalate

Continued from front page

under control, Kagan said.

The "president changed his strategy profoundly in January 2007," Kagan said. The first phase of the new approach consisted of sending another 30,000 troops to Iraq—the biggest escalation of the war since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion—bringing the total number of U.S. forces in the country to about 155,000. That deployment was completed in early June, Kagan noted.

That was soon after the majority-Democratic Congress approved $100 billion to fund Washington's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which Bush signed into law. Since January, no influential voice in the ruling class has presented any serious alternative to the White House plan.

The additional troops were deployed in Baghdad, in the areas around Baghdad, including Baquba in Diyala province, and in Anbar province.

In his speech, Bush said the U.S. military hopes to replicate in and around Baghdad the successes it has had against al-Qaeda forces in Anbar. "A group of tribal sheikhs launched a movement called The Awakening and began cooperating with American and Iraqi forces," Bush said. That came in response to al-Qaeda killings of Sunnis that it accused of being collaborators and its shakedowns of merchants and other wealthy Sunnis to raise funds.

Such cooperation from Sunni forces against al-Qaeda has begun to "spread from Anbar into Babil, Salah ad-Din, and even Diyala provinces," Kagan said.

"Now we've launched a wider offensive, called Operation Phantom Thunder, which is taking the fight to the enemy in the capital as well as its surrounding regions," Bush said.

This second phase of the military escalation began June 15, Kagan told the House Foreign Affairs Committee. It focused initially on an offensive by 10,000 troops in Baquba, the capital of Diyala province, some 30 miles northeast of Baghdad, where al-Qaeda shifted its center of operations after the rout it suffered in Anbar, according to David Petraeus, the top U.S. general in Iraq. The purpose of Phantom Thunder, Kagan said, "is to disrupt terrorist and militia networks and bases outside of Baghdad that have been feeding the violence within the city."

The violence Kagan referred to is fueled to a large degree by wealthy Sunnis and Shiites vying for control of Iraq's oil and other resources.

"But even this [Phantom Thunder] operation—the largest coordinated combat operation the U.S. has undertaken since the invasion in 2003," Kagan said, "is not the decisive stage of the current strategy. It is an operation designed to set the preconditions for a successful clear-and-hold operation that will probably begin in late July or early August within Baghdad itself. That is the operation that is designed to bring security to Iraq's capital in a lasting way."

In his speech, Bush repeated U.S. threats against Iran and Syria. Tehran "continues to supply deadly IED explosives that are being used against American forces. It's also providing training in Iran as well as funding and weapons for Iraqi militias," he said. "Meanwhile, Syria continues to be a transit station for al Qaeda and other foreign fighters on their way to Iraq."

Making it clear it will take a long time to establish a stable client regime in Baghdad and defeat "terrorists" elsewhere, Bush described current military operations in Iraq and the region as "the beginning stages of this global war."

Protesters condemn 'Quincy Four' verdict

Sing Tao Newspapers/Chutze Chou

QUINCY, Massachusetts, June 24—Karen Chen spoke at a meeting here today of more than 100 to protest conviction of herself and others known as the "Quincy Four" (above). After leaving an engagement party in April last year, the four were beaten and pepper sprayed by police, who arrested and charged them with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Three of the four, Karen Chen, Quan Thin, and Tat Yuen, were slapped with a six-month suspended sentence, 10 days of incarceration, and two years probation. The fourth, Howard Ng, was found innocent.

The cop beating left Chen with a black eye, and gave Yuen a concussion.

The four rejected a plea bargain agreement that involved writing a letter of apology to the Quincy Police Department. "Why should we have to apologize to the police for what they did to us?" said Karen Chen.

—JOHN HAWKINS

UAW OKs concessions at Delphi

Continued from front page

to seek deeper concessions in bankruptcy court.

"We have trust in our negotiations and no faith in [bankruptcy court] Judge Drain," Art Reyes, president of UAW Local 651, told the *New York Times*. "Putting this back in his hands would have been devastating. The sacrifices that I'm making will be well worth it."

The deal chops wages dramatically—from a top pay of $27 per hour to a wage scale of $14–$18.50. It calls for closing or selling 14 of Delphi's 18 plants. With its ratification, Delphi ends the jobs bank, a union provision that allowed workers to receive 95 percent of their pay after being laid off.

The new contract is "cheering the domestic auto industry" said an article in the *Wall Street Journal*. In response to the deal, GM shares rose 81 cents on Wall Street. One investment company, CRT Capital Holding LLC, estimates that the agreement will reduce Delphi's UAW membership to 1,600 from about 18,300 by 2011.

The union's national membership has sunk to around 500,000—about half the union's size 20 years ago.

According to the *Journal*, the new contract will help the U.S. auto companies "hammer out the type of labor agreements they need to become more competitive" and put them "on better footing to compete with Asia-based rivals such as Toyota Motor Corp."

The wage-cutting agreement paves the way for national labor talks with Detroit's Big Three—GM, Ford and Chrysler—which begin in late July. The auto bosses want as much as $10 billion a year in concessions.

"The Big Three need, want, something transformational," said David Cole, president of the Center for Auto Research, according to the *Journal*. "They will have their Waterloo now. Ron . . . and the union think incrementally, and would prefer death by a thousand cuts."

THE MILITANT

'Offers a workers' perspective'

"It's good to see a workers' perspective coming from a serious newspaper. You're not going to get that anywhere else."

—Ari Sahakian
Lowell, Massachusetts

Ari Sahakian, member of Student Socialist Coalition at University of Massachusetts.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

❑ $5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

❑ $10 for 12 weeks

❑ $20 for 6 months

❑ $35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A$8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can$6 • Caribbean and Latin America, $10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • New Zealand, NZ$7 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 71/No. 28

Closing news date: July 2, 2007

Editor and circulation director: Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Martín Koppel, Olympia Newton, Ben O'Shaughnessy, Paul Pederson, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams, and Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in July, and two weeks in August.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: for one-year send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Immigration bill

Continued from front page

maintaining a stable pool of superexploited labor. These groups, including the American Chamber of Commerce, supported the bill's "guest worker" provision that would allow temporary visas for up to 200,000 workers per year.

Other employer groups opposed an amendment the Senate passed cutting the annual number of guest worker visas in half from the bill's original 400,000, and pushed for allowing as many as 600,000 seasonal workers a year.

The defeat of the bill "leaves most of our guys in a pretty tough spot," Brewster Bevis, director of legislative affairs for Associated Builders and Contractors, told the *New York Times*. "They wanted this reform so they can sleep better at night and don't have to fear potentially being visited by ICE," the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Factory raids and deportations are bad for business, complained Cliff Butler, vice chairman of Pilgrim's Pride, the nation's largest poultry producer and a major supporter of the bill. He was surprised that those opposing the bill didn't consider "what it would do to our economy to remove that labor force."

Many opponents of the bill denounced it as "amnesty" for lawbreakers. Following its defeat, Republican senator Jim DeMint said at a June 28 news conference "we can move ahead with expanding our border security, with a verifiable worker ID program."

Under the proposal, many undocumented immigrants currently in the United States could apply for renewable Z visas, after paying $4,500 in fines. Eventually, after paying additional fees of up to $5,000 and meeting other onerous requirements, they must leave the United States to apply for permanent residency from their country of origin. Preference in granting green cards would shift to a point system emphasizing education and skills, instead of the current criteria of family unification. Bosses in agriculture, construction, and meatpacking, especially, who depend on a pool of less skilled workers, objected to this "merit-based" system, as did many immigrant rights groups.

Labor officials blocked with different sections of the ruling class over the immigration package.

The Service Employees International Union, United Farm Workers, and the hotel and garment workers union UNITE HERE backed the bill as a flawed but the "best possible" deal. The AFL-CIO campaigned against the bill.

The bill was widely promoted in the press as the only chance for some form of legalization for at least some of the 12 million undocumented. The Los Angeles daily *La Opinión* bemoaned the bill's defeat as "a serious setback to the hopes of the undocumented for legalization."

Some workers, however, disagreed. "People shouldn't be sad that the bill didn't pass," said Guillermo Avalaz, a construction worker, at a June 30 protest against recent immigration raids in Santa Ana, California. "Because of the media, people think this is amnesty. It's not. It's a guest worker bill. It should be motivation to come out to protest more." He carried a large sign reading, in Spanish, "No to the 'Z.' Naturalize foreign laborers." About 60 people took part in the action.

Meanwhile, the March 25 Coalition and other groups have called a demonstration in Los Angeles August 4 to demand unconditional legalization of all undocumented immigrants and an end to raids and deportations.

EDITORIAL

Legalize all undocumented immigrants now!

Last week, the U.S. Senate killed the immigration bill it had been debating since May. The vote showed how divided the ruling class is over immigration reform.

Some in the media, especially liberals, painted the outcome as a "defeat" for those fighting for legalization of undocumented immigrants. In response to the bill's failure, however, working people should say, "Good riddance!"

Like similar proposals introduced earlier in Congress, the measure would have served the interests of the bosses. While allowing many to apply for legal status, it was designed to maintain millions in second-class status as a permanent pool of superexploitable labor.

The bill called for thousands more immigration cops and new jails. It endorsed the militarization of the border. It required workers seeking permanent residency to pay extortionate fees and remain in limbo for years, dependent on their employer for their status. It restricted family reunification. Its "guest worker" plan assured the bosses a stable supply of workers paid minimal wages, denied benefits, and stripped of their rights and mobility.

Many workers opposed the bill on these grounds. Others echoed arguments by some liberal politicians and trade union officials that it was "the best possible" deal.

Many bosses and their political representatives—Democrats and Republicans—attacked the bill for their own reasons. Craig Silvertooth, for example, a spokesman for the National Roofing Contractors Association, said limiting guest workers to 200,000 a year is "a travesty" because "it eviscerates the temporary worker program, which was one of the central reasons for the business community to be involved in the immigration debate." These bosses argued for a three-times higher annual pool of guest workers. They wanted assurances they can keep exploiting a large number of immigrants brought in seasonally to harvest crops or do other work. Conservative politicians argued the bill offered "amnesty" to lawbreakers.

Workers have nothing in common with either side of the bosses' divide.

The ruling capitalists face a dilemma. Immigration has produced a much more intractable crisis for them than the Iraq war. This is reflected in their inability to find "common ground" on immigration reform a year and a half after the House passed the infamous Sensenbrenner bill that would have criminalized all those without papers—sparking a storm of working-class protest. And even if Congress had passed the bill that just failed, the U.S. rulers would be facing the same crisis.

The 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States represent something new. These workers have become integrated into its hereditary proletariat—those who can expect that they and their children will be a permanent part of the working class. At the same time many remain part of the hereditary proletariat in their native country, especially Mexico.

The bosses can't separate their need to compete and maximize profits from this expanding source of labor power. But this change also poses growing problems for the U.S. rulers, especially as a new vanguard develops among these workers that is leading resistance to the bosses' offensive and presenting political demands on the government. The capitalist class can't do without these workers, and it can't do with them.

Working people can take advantage of these divisions among the U.S. rulers. Let's press for immediate and unconditional legalization of all undocumented immigrants and for an end to raids and deportations. The August 4 march in Los Angeles around these demands is an example of an action that deserves emulation. Let's build it!

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 16, 1982

In the largest antiwar demonstration in Israel since the beginning of the invasion of Lebanon, between 70,000 and 100,000 people turned out for a massive rally in Tel Aviv July 3, according to press and police estimates. Protesters brought signs declaring, "Out of Lebanon!" and Bring our boys home!" Among those participating in the rally were soldiers who had just been demobilized from the army after serving in Lebanon. Many protesters demanded the resignation of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

July 15, 1957

The estimate of the number of dead in the hurricane that hit the Louisiana coast June 27 varies from 500 to over 1,000. The bodies are still being collected. Many may never be recovered.

The amount of devastation can be seen in the fact that in the town of Cameron, only the steel and concrete courthouse was left intact. Surrounding low-lying towns were also smashed. One report said, "The resort community of Holly Beach no longer exists. It was completely wiped off the map."

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

July 16, 1932

We have witnessed a series of "revolutions" in Chile in the overthrow of several governments. First, the military, ultra-reactionary dictatorship of Ibanez was supplanted by Montero. The latter's regime was overthrown, in turn by Davila in conjunction with part of the military camarilla of which Col. Marmaduke Grove is one of the outstanding representatives. Constituting itself a "revolutionary" junta and declaring itself to be "socialist," the Davila clique later renounced their original views as too radical.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: swp@bham.rr.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net
San Francisco: 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf @sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 381395. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 1146 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW. Zip: 30310. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 758-2151. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwest.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

NEW YORK: **Manhattan**: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649.E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net
Pittsburgh: 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP @verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@ sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@ optusnet.com.au

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@xtra.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@ btinternet.com

U.S. Social Forum

Continued from front page

from abroad came from Haiti and Puerto Rico, with a couple dozen attending from countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Thousands of young people, many new to politics, were drawn to the event to link up with others and exchange ideas. A substantial number of participants were Black.

"Coming to Atlanta has helped us to realize we aren't alone," said Jacquelyn Madison-Brown. Her brother Ronald Madison was killed by the New Orleans police in September 2005. "We've met a lot of people going through the same struggles," she said. The Madison family is part of a group fighting police brutality in New Orleans that chartered a bus to attend the Social Forum.

The conference, which was spread out at venues across the city, included six plenary sessions, a closing session, and hundreds of workshops.

Fights for legalization of undocumented immigrants were threaded throughout conference sessions. Small farmers participated in and led a number of workshops. Social questions that affect Blacks and other oppressed nationalities in particular were a theme of the gathering.

Attraction to communist ideas

The event was marked by a serious tone and an open political exchange.

While most of the workshops and presentations were dominated by liberal views, communist ideas got a wide hearing at the event. Because discussion time was not organized for the plenary sessions and was limited in the workshops, most exchanges took place in the corridors and on the streets outside formal conference sessions. Hundreds subscribed or bought copies of the *Militant* or books published by Pathfinder Press off of numerous literature tables set up throughout the event.

In addition to high sales of the Marxist magazine *New International*, conference participants purchased 21 copies of the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*. Twenty-five participants bought books of speeches by Malcolm X, fifteen bought copies of *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*, and ten picked up copies of *The Communist Manifesto.*

U.S. imperialism and war

The largest plenary session, titled "U.S. Imperialism, War, Militarism, and Prisons," drew about 2,000 people. Dozens of workshops took place on the impact of imperialist interventions in the Philippines, Somalia, and other countries. Several workshops took place on the Cuban Revolution and the case of the Cuban Five (see article on p. 4). The battle for independence for the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico was also addressed in workshops.

International films such as "Haiti: 'We Must Kill the Bandits,'" were shown. That documentary of the February 2004 military coup against Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the subsequent occupation of Haiti by United Nation troops includes graphic footage of Haitian working people being killed by UN troops for opposing the military government. Former Haitian labor leaders Duclos Benissoit and Cajuste Lexiuste led a discussion after the showing.

Social questions facing Blacks

A workshop hosted by Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and Equal Justice USA included relatives of individuals on Death Row.

"I fight against the death penalty, not only to save my brother's life, but also because it is morally wrong," said Martina Correia whose brother Troy Davis was sent to death row 15 years ago on frame-up charges for the killing of an off-duty cop in 1989 in Savannah, Georgia. Davis faces execution despite strong evidence of his innocence. Two days before the Social Forum opened, the Supreme Court refused to hear his case.

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC), an Alabama-based Black farmers organization, led two workshops about the ongoing effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on small farmers, fishermen, and workers in rural Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. These were two of many events at the conference, including a plenary session that highlighted social conditions facing working people in the Gulf Coast.

FSC program director John Zippert spoke about the 250,000 people still displaced 18 months after Katrina. "While fishermen's boats and facilities remain in ruins, money is being spent to construct docks for pleasure boats," he said.

Immigrant workers' struggles

There were some 60 workshops on the topic of immigration and the fights of immigrant workers.

At a June 30 workshop of more than 100 on "Domestic, Farm, and Low-Wage Workers in the South," primarily immigrant workers who are women discussed the challenges of organizing for their rights.

"Thirty years ago it was mostly U.S.-born Black women," explained Christine Lewis, who works with Domestic Workers United in New York City, in an interview after the program. "Now New York domestic workers, who number 200,000, are 90 percent immigrants, primarily from Latin America and the Caribbean." She pointed to legalization as key in this struggle.

A June 30 workshop on "Organizing in Asian Immigrant Communities,"

Continued on page 5

Militant/Ryan Scott

Young Socialist Muhammad Kareem from Minneapolis discusses *New International* number 12 at one of many YS and SWP tables during U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta.

'Militant' well received at U.S. Social Forum

Continued from front page

books at the U.S. Social Forum here. Interest in the *Militant* and other literature on revolutionary working-class politics was high among youth, working people, and others attending the Forum.

About 50 supporters of the *Militant* promoted the paper in workshops and through literature tables at half a dozen locations throughout the five days of the conference. The effort went well into the night each day. As this issue goes to press, 237 people had subscribed to the *Militant* and 500 bought copies of the paper. *Militant* supporters also sold 93 copies of the two most recent issues of the *New International*, and $3,000 worth of Pathfinder books.

While subscribing to the *Militant* and buying issues no. 12 and 13 of *New International,* the young woman from Kenya explained she had tried to set up a library in her country to take advantage of political space opened up there after the collapse of a repressive government. "People all over Africa are looking for revolutionary ideas that can move us forward," she said.

Four copies of the *New International* were sold at the conclusion of a workshop on the destruction of the environment around U.S. military bases worldwide. Emily Paul, a Young Socialist and a garment worker from New York, spoke during the discussion. The impact of U.S. militarism on working people around the world demonstrates the priorities of U.S. imperialism to protect and boost capitalist profits, she said. Paul encouraged participants to pick up issue no. 12 of *New International,* featuring the article "Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun," which provides an explanation of why the U.S. rulers are transforming their military to prepare for decades of wars under the banner of "fighting terrorism." She also pointed to the opportunities described in the magazine to build a revolutionary working-class movement to fight imperialism.

New International no. 13 features "Our Politics Start with the World" and "Farming, Science, and the Working Classes." These materials explain how protecting the earth is inextricably linked to defense of labor. They describe how to make working conditions safer and how the working class can extend such protections for all, Paul noted.

After the discussion, a woman from Puerto Rico told Paul how much she appreciated her remarks and bought the last two issues of the *New International.* She also purchased *The First and Second Declarations of Havana, Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity,* and a subscription to the *Militant.* A panelist from Okinawa also purchased these *New International*s.

Yadira, a young Afro-Colombian woman who lives in Washington, D.C., recently subscribed to the *Militant.* While here, she urged people she met to subscribe too. Several bought subscriptions or books. Yadira described how a young woman asked her for "more information" after she spoke in a workshop on politics in Latin America. "I said we had to move beyond just talking and ask, 'What are we going to do?' This woman said she wanted to know the answer to that question too, so I told her to read the *Militant,* like I do, because I have learned a lot."

In a workshop on immigrant rights, Arthur Andrianopoulos, a Young Socialist from the United Kingdom, said the YS uses the *Militant* to explain how the migration of workers from the semicolonial world to the imperialist centers, and their integration into the proletariat of these countries, is strengthening the working classes. In response, the workshop moderator asked him to pass the *Militant* around the room and two participants subscribed.

Special U.S. Social Forum Offers

Present this coupon to any distributor listed on page 3, or order online at www.pathfinderpress.com

'New International' numbers 12 and 13
(Regular price $30)

$10 each

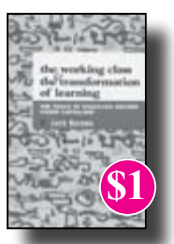
All other titles and 'New International'
15% off
cover price

Special offers with new or current 'Militant' subscription

The First and Second Declarations of Havana
Manifestos of revolutionary struggle in the Americas adopted by the Cuban people
(Regular price $10)

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution
by Jack Barnes
(Regular price $13)

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning
The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes
(Regular price $3)



Offers good until July 15

When ordering online, enter USSF2007 in space for Coupon Code on the Review and Submit page. Click Apply. Then submit your order.

Young Socialists join issues, make gains at Social Forum

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

BY TOM BAUMANN

ATLANTA, July 1—"The YS is stronger out of this experience, more confident individually and collectively," said Deborah Walker, a participant in the U.S. Social Forum here and a Young Socialist from Newark, New Jersey.

"In workshops and discussions, we met and developed relations with other young fighters looking for a way forward," said Ben O'Shaughnessy, organizer of the YS National Steering Committee.

Young Socialists came here from 10 cities in three countries. The YS and Socialist Workers Party kept literature tables up at the different Forum venues, offering the *Militant*, *New International,* Pathfinder books, and a place to engage in political discussions.

"A lot of people have questions," said Walker. "There are a billion problems in the U.S. People want to know why that is. In our discussions we find people don't have solutions."

"Young Socialists talked about a revolutionary working-class perspective," said O'Shaughnessy. "Pointing to the example of the massive mobilizations of immigrant workers for legalization over the past two years, Young Socialists were in the thick of a discussion with young people and workers trying to figure out the most effective ways to fight."

One example was a workshop on reproductive rights, labor, and the environment sponsored by Choice USA, a national youth group that supports a woman's right to choose abortion. Panelists described the superexploitation of flower pickers in Colombia by Dole, and how the use of pesticide by the fruit company was causing infertility in women.

Young Socialists joined this discussion, drawing on their experiences in fights for women's rights. Many were interested when YS members said that the biggest problem is the way the bosses put profits above human life, disregarding workers' safety and devastating the environment in the process. They pointed to struggles for unionization as the first step toward safe working conditions and protection of the environment as well.

In one of many workshops on the social disaster in the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Young Socialists pointed to the revolutionary potential and solidarity of the working class, as demonstrated by how workers on their own organized to get thousands of people to safety, feed the hungry, and help the sick.

After the workshop, Denice Wade, a recent graduate from the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, approached YS members to continue the discussion. She expressed interest in working with the YS further and decided to attend the upcoming Socialist Workers Party convention in Oberlin, Ohio, and the international YS meeting that will take place there afterwards.

"I just met the organization and found that I have been thinking a lot of the same things for a while," said Wade. "I decided to go to the convention to find out more about the organization and the best way to be a part of the struggles today."

Puerto Rican independence fighter speaks at U.S. Social Forum

Militant/Maura DeLuca

ATLANTA, June 30—Long-time Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda spoke on a panel here today as part of the U.S. Social Forum to demand freedom for political prisoners held in U.S. jails. A former political prisoner himself for fighting to free Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule, Cancel Miranda, urged those present to support the fight to free four Puerto Rican independentistas still incarcerated in U.S. prisons—Oscar López, Carlos Alberto Torres, Haydée Beltrán, and José Pérez González; the Cuban Five (see article below); Leonard Peltier, a leader of the American Indian Movement; and Mumia Abu-Jamal. Cancel Miranda also spoke yesterday at a workshop here on "Decolonization/Self-Determination for Puerto Rico."

—RÓGER CALERO

Thousands at U.S. Social Forum

Continued from page 4

sponsored by the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, addressed the struggles by immigrant workers from Asia. It was packed by Asian American students, activists, and workers. The participation of young people with ancestry from all across Asia was sizeable at the Social Forum.

"The May Day protest at MacArthur Park, the fight against cop brutality is part of something much bigger," said Sun-Young Yang from the Labor/Community Strategy Center in Los Angeles, at the workshop.

Representatives of the National Day Laborers Organizing Network were at the Social Forum promoting campaigns to defend immigrants who depend on irregular work from contractors, lawn services, and other bosses.

Lilliam Juarez, from the Workplace Project in Long Island, New York, said that a national day laborers conference would be held in Silver Spring, Maryland, August 2–5 to discuss ways to advance the struggles of immigrants and day laborers to gain employment and hiring halls, and to fight attacks on their rights.

Representatives of the AFL-CIO and other U.S. unions organized workshops, spoke at plenary sessions, and staffed information tables.

Many who came saw the Forum as an opportunity to win solidarity for their fights. Norberto Jimenez, a tomato picker from Immokalee, Florida, is part of a struggle by farm workers for increased wages and improved working conditions. Eight members of his group, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, came to Atlanta.

"We wanted to unite with others," he said. "That is how we can win what we are fighting for."

'We salute your struggles from behind prison walls'

BY BEN O'SHAUGHNESSY

ATLANTA June 28—"From inside the prisons, we have been following the just struggles that all of you are involved in, from immigrant rights, to women's equality, to working towards a safe environment, to the struggle against racism and discrimination, and to end the war and occupation of Iraq and elsewhere," wrote Gerardo Hernández in a message sent to the U.S. Social Forum on behalf of the Cuban Five.

The Cuban Five—Hernández, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero, René González, and Ramón Labañino—were framed-up by the FBI and have been locked up in U.S. prisons since 1998. They were convicted in 2001 on phony charges that included "conspiracy to commit espionage" for the government of Cuba, and, in the case of Hernández, "conspiracy to commit murder." They received sentences ranging from 15 years in prison to a double-life term.

Hernández's message was read to a workshop today entitled "The Campaign to Free the Cuban Five." The speakers' panel included Leonard Weinglass, the main attorney in the United States for the Five; Roberto González, a defense lawyer and the brother of René González; Marjorie Cohn, president of the National Lawyers Guild; and Gloria La Riva of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five.

Puerto Rican independence fighter and former U.S. political prisoner Rafael Cancel Miranda (see photo box above), and Marcia Campos, president of the Women's International Democratic Federation, were in the audience.

"Why were the Cuban Five in the U.S.?" asked Roberto González. "Why is it necessary for five Cubans to be in Miami penetrating terrorist organizations?" González cited examples of attacks carried out against Cuba by counterrevolutionary groups operating from U.S. soil with Washington's backing.

Two tables at different forum venues were dedicated to the campaign to win their freedom. Both displayed large banners and distributed literature on the case. Other literature tables distributed books and informational brochures on the case.

On June 28, more than 20 people attended a showing of *¡Salud!,* a new documentary on Cuba's internationalist medical missions around the world.

Other workshops centered on Cuba's health-care system and internationalism; the Cuban Revolution and the struggle for women's rights; and Cuba's role in the fight against imperialist trade pacts.

'Militant' summer schedule

This issue of the *Militant* is a two-week issue. The next issue will come off the press July 19. The paper will publish biweekly for the remainder of the summer. We will resume weekly publication with the issue coming off the press August 30.

Blow to school desegregation

Continued from front page

so quickly changed so much," said Justice Breyer in a dissenting opinion. "This is a decision that the court and the nation will come to regret."

Writing in support of the majority, Justice Clarence Thomas said that the dissenting opinion would "constitutionalize today's faddish social theories."

Seattle Urban League president James Kelly said the decision, "harkens back to the old law of separate but equal, which of course isn't equal."

In 1977, under threat of a lawsuit by the NAACP and civil rights groups, the Seattle school board began "voluntary" busing to desegregate the 47,000-student system. The plan was ended in 1997 in face of an antibusing campaign led by prominent businessmen.

An "Open Choice" plan, began in 1998, aimed at achieving student ratios in each school close to that in the city—60 percent oppressed minorities and 40 percent white. It allowed students to attend any school of their choice. Where demand exceeded space, siblings of current students got priority. In other cases a "diversity tiebreaker" favored students whose race tipped a school toward the 60–40 ratio. This tiebreaker, which the board suspended in 2002, was ruled against by the Supreme Court.

In 1973 a federal court found the Louisville school system to be segregated. That led to court-ordered busing from 1975 to 1984. The system remained under court supervision until 2000. The 97,000-student system is 34 percent Black—the rest predominantly white.

The plan that was overturned by the high court aimed to obtain a minimum of 15 percent and a maximum of 50 percent Black enrollment in each school with the exception of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and some magnet schools.